



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE - DECEMBER

1 Corinthians 12:4–7

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Greetings Christ Lutheran Church!!

As we enter the season of Advent and draw closer to Christmas, our attention naturally turns toward hope, generosity, and the light God brings into the world. It's also a season when many people feel a renewed desire to help, both near and far. In our confirmation classes, we talk about what it truly takes to care for someone in need across the country or even across the globe.

I often begin the lesson by asking the students a simple question: "If you wanted to help someone who is struggling on the other side of the world, what would you need to do?" Their answers start big: raise money, collect supplies, send food, offer support. But soon, they start to realize the challenges. How do we get help to where it needs to go? How do we make sure it actually reaches the people who need it most?

That is when the lightbulb turns on. We cannot do it alone. As Christians, we are called to serve our neighbor, but we are not called to serve by ourselves. God equips each of us with unique gifts and calls us to weave those gifts together locally, nationally, and globally so that our combined efforts can truly make a difference. To serve effectively, we work through congregations, partner ministries, relief organizations, and one another. God's mission has always been a shared calling.

This December, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, the One who came for the whole world, may we remember that caring for others is something we do as a community. Whether it is local mission efforts, supporting ELCA ministries, contributing to global relief work, or simply watching out for a neighbor across the street, each act becomes part of something bigger. We are a church universal that shines a light for a world in need!

Recently during Adult Forum, we had a helpful conversation about resources available to Thrivent members. If you are a Thrivent member and have questions about Thrivent Action Teams or Thrivent Choice Dollars, or if you are not a member but want to learn more, please reach out to me. I would love to help point you in the right direction.

Together, we shine Christ's light.

Together, we bring hope.

Together, we make a difference!

Blessings to you all as we journey together toward the joy of Christ's birth!

Pr. Jeremy



Jeremy Johnson

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# EDUCATION/YOUTH

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - DECEMBER

If you are interested in volunteering or helping in the classrooms please contact Francine Kovash at [fkovash@hotmail.com](mailto:fkovash@hotmail.com) or 507-951-2234.

The lessons for December will be:

12/7 - Christmas Lesson - Jesus is Born - Luke 2:1-20

12/14 - John the Baptist - Matthew 11:2-11

12/21 - No Sunday School - Merry Christmas!

12/28 - No Sunday School - Happy New Year!

There will be rehearsal for those with speaking or nativity parts in the Christmas Program on Friday 12/5 at 6:00 pm (this is different from what is on the Sunday School schedule due to the basketball tournament on Saturday). The final Christmas Program rehearsal will be on 12/7 during Sunday School from 9:05-9:55.

**The Christmas Program will be during the 10 AM service on 12/7.**

Offering collected during Sunday school and to the left of the altar in the sanctuary from January through April will go to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response to assist in the Africa Drought crisis. May through August will go to the Byron Food Shelf. September through December will go to Real Hope for the Hungry.

Thanks! Francine

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It is not too late to register for Sunday School!!

[\*\*Sunday School Registration Link\*\*](#)

## CONFIRMATION NEWS AND 6TH GRADE SS

**- DECEMBER** The 6th grade students just wrapped up their unit on Martin Luther and the Reformation.

Next, they'll begin exploring the sacraments—baptism and communion. The 7th and 8th grade students are

finishing their study

## MISSION TRIP 2026

**Duluth, MN - July 19-24, 2025**

30 spots have been booked! A \$150 deposit is due by December 1 to secure your spot. Payment can be in the form of cash, check, or Venmo (please note: mission trip) Approximate trip cost is about \$650/student, but we are providing the trip at \$375/student.

Link to register: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeF-vkRfO--vfn6walriESSjN1Xfzlz67i961l-XW7UMMB3MA/viewform>

If you would like a scholarship, speak with Pastor Jeremy privately. Contact the office if you are interested in being a trip leader.

of the Apostles' Creed, and then they'll dig into some of the tough questions of faith. Confirmation and 6th grade will have regular class on December 3 through 17 with December 17th being Christmas party night. No confirmation or 6th grade on Wed, Dec 24 and 31.

## BREW CREW BIBLE STUDY

The Brew Crew will continue to meet on Mondays at 10am through December 15. We will take Dec 22, 29 and Jan 5 off and resume meeting on January 12. Join us for good coffee and great conversation as we continue exploring the **various religions and Christian denominations of the world**. As we learn about different beliefs, we'll reflect on what we believe and hold to be true. Expect engaging and thoughtful discussion as we grow in understanding—both of our own faith and of others. ***Please join us on Mondays at 10!*** If you're not able to meet with us in person, study sheets are available on the kiosk.

**KWIK TRIP CAR WASHES** - The Youth Committee is selling Kwik Trip Car Washes to support the mission trip and Bible Camp Scholarships. Cost is \$40/5 washes. Cards are sold between services on the first Sunday of every month, or in the office.

**YOUTH GROUP** - We start each week by hanging out and playing games for about 30 minutes, then settle in to check in with one another and share prayers before diving into Bible study. This year, we're exploring how the Bible can be a tool for growing faith and deepening commitment to God. Come enjoy good conversation, faith, and fun in our newly made-over youth room!

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRELUDE MUSIC** - If you have a child interested in contributing musically to the prelude music before the Sunday School Christmas program on December 7, please contact Sherri Biewer at [sdathe@hotmail.com](mailto:sdathe@hotmail.com)





# OUTREACH/CHURCH LIFE/CHRISTMAS SEASON

## ADVENT CANDLE READINGS

Please consider signing up for advent readings and to light the candles during the Sunday services in Dec. The sign-up sheet is on the table outside of the office.

**BYRON FOOD SHELF** - is located at DACS building, 630 1st Ave NW, Byron. Hours are: Mon 10-11am, Wed 9-11am, Thur 12-2pm, and 1st Fri of month 6-8pm. CLC's food collections go to the Byron food shelf.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CLC will have 3 Christmas services with communion on December 24, 3pm, 4:30pm and 7pm. The services will feature candlelight, carols, and the Christmas story. We need the following volunteers at each service: acolytes, communion helpers, readers, and projector volunteers. If you are able to help with any of these tasks, please let the office know or use the sign up sheet on the table outside of the office.

## CHRISTMAS TREATS TO SHUT INS/SENIORS

The Evangelism Committee will be meeting to assemble and deliver Christmas bags on Thursday, December 18 at 10am. All are welcome to help!

## HANDBELLS AT CHRISTMAS

Interested in Ringing Bells? Christmas music with handbells is wonderful. Many beautiful pieces invite handbells to be ringing. The method is simple and fun. If you would love to be part of "RINGING" to our Christmas music for the services, please contact Jane Cabaya, 507-775-6183, or [janecabaya25@gmail.com](mailto:janecabaya25@gmail.com), or talk to me at the organ.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** - Luther Seminary is offering an Advent devotional called "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!". If you want a copy printed for you, contact Elaine in the office.

[www.luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/](http://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/advent-devotional/)

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia order forms are located on the table by the office. Cost is \$13/plant. You can order either red, white, or red/white combo plants in honor of or in memory of. Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service you attend. Order deadline is Dec 9.



**FAMILY PROMISE** - If you are looking for volunteer opportunities in the Rochester area, consider Family Promise, the organization that CLC used to support by offering temporary shelter, prior to COVID. Family Promise has several clubs you can assist with: Transportation, Cleaning, Operational Support, Engagement (event planning), Good Neighbor, and Family Cares Club. For more information: [www.fprochestermn.org/volunteer](http://www.fprochestermn.org/volunteer)

**THANK-YOU** - to the Building and Grounds volunteers for painting in the office rooms and all the furniture movement, and for our volunteers who cleaned carpets in the church.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** - In December, volunteers from CLC will help deliver meals to neighbors in Byron. If anyone is interested, please contact Sandy Erickson. CLC delivers meals four months every year (March, June, September and December).

**QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DONATIONS** - At age 70 1/2 and older, individuals may distribute tax-free up to \$100,000 annually from their IRAs to certain charitable organizations without including the amount of the charitable distribution in gross income when filing tax returns. An added benefit is this method of giving reduces gross income for the calculation determining the amount of Social Security benefits that may be taxable.

## CHRISTMAS GOODIE SALE

CLC will host its annual Christmas Bake Sale on Dec 6th in the entry. We are asking each family to please provide a batch of their favorite



Christmas baked goods and/or home-made gift items. Drop off times are Fri, Dec 5 from 4-6pm and Sat, Dec 6 from 8-9am. Please invite your friends and family to come on Saturday, December 6 from 9-11am to pick out their favorite treats and support our bake sale.

Contact is Evonne Schlobohm, [evonneschlobohm@gmail.com](mailto:evonneschlobohm@gmail.com)  
Proceeds are going towards revamping the Nursery.

## CLC SHARING TREE FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

This year the CLC Sharing Tree will be collecting items for the residents at the Benedictine Senior Assisted Living Center and Memory Care, in Byron. A list of suggested items needed are listed below as well as copies on the Sharing Tree.

### ITEMS NEEDED

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| * Large Print Word Search/Puzzle Books  | * Note Pads       |
| * Coloring Books (adult and simple bigger pictures)                               | * Pens            |
| * Markers, fine tipped & regular (easier to hold)                                 | * Colored Pencils |
| * Body and Hand Lotions   | * Grippy Socks    |
| * Individually wrapped chocolate candy (Hershey Kisses, Fun size Candy Bars etc.) | * Tooth Brushes   |
| * Body Wash for Men and Women   | * Tooth Paste     |

**Donated items will be collected through Sunday, Dec 14, 2025**

Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.  
Altar Committee



# CHURCH ACTIVITIES

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club group will have their next meeting on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:00 PM. We will be discussing "Vinegar Girl" by Anne Tyler. Our next book for the January gathering will be distributed. We will also be doing a game/book exchange at our Dec meeting. Anyone is welcome to join! Contacts are Ruth: Auntierootie@gmail.com or Kristie: kjn0312@gmail.com. Our December read is "Vinegar Girl" by Anne Tyler.

## CARD MAKING

We will not meet in Dec., but resume in Jan 2026. All are welcome as we make cards for others! Contact is Kari Prigge.

## JOY CLUB

The annual Christmas Potluck is December 9 at 11:30 at CLC. Please bring a dish to share and a gift for the white elephant gift exchange. If you are interested in helping to set up for the event, arrive that day at 10:30am. New members are welcomed! The Joy Club donates gift cards to the sharing tree.

## SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR - DEC

Treats for fellowship time are needed every week. If your last name starts with U - Z, please drop off the treats before 8am on Sundays. Home made or store bought are appreciated. Contact Sandy Erickson if you want to help with the kitchen crew for coffee hour.

## QUILTING/SEWING GROUP - We will not meet in Dec.

## TIME AND TALENT FORMS AND PLEDGE CARDS

Please bring your pledge cards and time and talent sheets to the worship services and drop in the offering baskets. To update your Time & Talent sheets (volunteer opportunities at CLC) for 2026, complete the form you received in the mail or update online at: [www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/](http://www.clcbyron.org/time-talents/) If you do not submit changes, your current selections will continue indefinitely.

## WEATHER AND WORSHIP

If there is heavy snowfall/wind or ice, please check KTTC, CLC Facebook page, or watch for an email from CLC for worship service announcements. It is possible that the first service could be cancelled and not Sunday School or the 2nd service.

## MEN'S GROUP

Pastor Jeremy will host Men's Group on Thursday, Dec 18 at CLC. We will make pancakes and bacon for breakfast at CLC, also at 9am. We will discuss Martin Luther. Members and non-members are welcome!

## DECEMBER DATES

Sat, Dec 6, 9-11am - Christmas Goodie Sale

Sun, Dec 7, 10am - SS Christmas Program

Tue, Dec 9, 11:30am - JOY Group Christmas Potluck

Thur, Dec 18, 9am - Men's Breakfast at CLC

**Tue, Dec 24, 3pm, 4:30pm, 7pm - Christmas Eve Worship**

Sun, Dec 28, 9am - One worship service

Recently seen around CLC...





# STEWARDSHIP/WORSHIP

## CLC COUNCIL MEETING - 11-18-25

The Christ Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by J Biewer.

Members present: T Anderson, J Biewer, L Danielski, A Ebenhoh, L Eischens, R Holz, C Meek, D Oestreich, J Pfeilsticker, Pastor J Johnson. Members absent: L Brown, C Smith, and T Tweite.

Joys and Concerns - Devotions: By J Biewer

Approval of Agenda: Motion made to approve the agenda by C Meek. L Danielski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approval of Oct Minutes: Motion made by J Pfeilsticker to approve the October minutes. A Ebenhoh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: J Pfeilsticker presented the Treasurer report. Oct income \$21,384.29; Oct expenses \$26,749.82; Oct difference -\$5,365.53; YTD Difference -\$18,948.

### Information/Discussion Items:

Brief Overview of Committees from the Council Reps:

Building and Grounds: L Eischens reported that the Building and Grounds Committee would like an increase in their budget for next year because of several needs inside the church—Update the nursery and adjoining Sunday School room, slowly start replacing all the lights to LED, replace the back hallway flooring, refresh the outdoor landscaping.

Youth Committee: C Meek reported that planning has begun for the next mission trip in July to Duluth.

Budget Committee: J Pfeilsticker reported they will start working on the 2026 budget.

Education Committee: L Danielski reported that the focus right now is on the Sunday School Christmas program which will be on December 7 at the late service. They are organiz-

ing an annual pizza and puzzle party.

Discussion was held regarding updating the constitution. Two council members and two non-council members, S Briske and H Alsleben, will be on a sub-committee to get this started.

Pastor Jeremy mentioned that Emily Carson from the Synod will be meeting with the council on December 14 from 11:30-3:00 to help get the ball rolling and discuss what the future holds and what our needs are at Christ Lutheran as far as hiring a half-time person.

J Biewer reported that the council table in the Narthex will start up again.

Pastor Jeremy and a few council members met with the Community Resource Officer to talk about coming up with an emergency preparedness plan for Christ Lutheran. A final plan will be made available at our December council meeting.

J Biewer mentioned that three council members' 3-year terms are up--R Holz, T Tweite, and A Ebenhoh. They can re-up for another 3 years if they so desire.

Pastor Lesson: Pastor Jeremy read Ecclesiastes chapter 3, a time for everything. This can be compared to our time here at Christ Lutheran—times of struggle, times of growth and that the church goes thru these "seasons".

**Action Items:** None.

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by J Pfeilsticker to adjourn the meeting. C Meek seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be December 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by LuRaye Eischens, council secretary

**NON-MEMBER DONATION STATEMENTS OR ENVELOPES** - If you are a non-member that gives donations to CLC and would like a donation statement or regular envelopes, please contact the office.

## WORSHIP AT CLC

- Sunday worship at 8am traditional and 10am contemporary
- Communion offered 1st and 3rd weeks of the month at both services.
- Live Streamed services: <https://www.youtube.com/@christlutheranchurchbyronm10/streams>

**DONATIONS AND THANK-YOU** - Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. Donation options include 1) mailing your offering to Christ Lutheran Church, 201 Frontage Road NW, Byron, 2) online giving <http://www.clcbyron.org/giving/>, or Venmo, or 3) drop off your offering during church services or office hours.

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** - You can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars online or call 800-847-4836. When prompted, say "Choice Dollars" and continue with the prompts. Thrivent is no longer sending out emails indicating you have money to direct. We received \$34 in October in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

## 2025 COMMUNION REGISTRATION

Register once annually by writing your name on the communion list on the registration table.

**CONSIDER QCD DONATIONS** - If you are over 70 1/2, consider a QCD. Ask the office for more info.

## ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS



Venmo

Vanco



Christ Lutheran Church  
 201 Frontage Road NW  
 Byron, MN 55920      [www.clcbyron.org](http://www.clcbyron.org)  
 Office Hours: 9am - 3pm Mon - Thurs  
 507-775-6646      [office@clcbyron.org](mailto:office@clcbyron.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
 Byron, MN  
 Permit Number 17

**December 2025**



### Worship Times

8am Worship - Traditional

10am Worship - Contemporary

LiveStream Worship

*Communion is the 1st and 3rd Sundays*



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastors can be reached by office phone 507-775-6646 or  
 Pastor Jeremy 507-481-4394 or [pastorjeremy@clcbyron.org](mailto:pastorjeremy@clcbyron.org)  
 Pastor Judy 507-330-0722 or [peacejudy@hotmail.com](mailto:peacejudy@hotmail.com)  
 President, Joe Biewer 701-261-5932 or [jbiewer@hotmail.com](mailto:jbiewer@hotmail.com)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Thank-you to all, who are serving on the various committees. We are so appreciative of the work you have been doing at CLC. If you no longer want to serve, please let council president, Joe Biewer, know. If you are new to the church and would like to serve in various committees, according to your gifts, please complete our Time and Talent Form. ([clcbyron.org](http://clcbyron.org) - participate)

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - Sun, Feb 1, 2026, 9am - All active, confirmed members of CLC are encouraged to attend and be a part of the decision making process of our church. Questions may be addressed to any church council member. Watch for a council table in January.

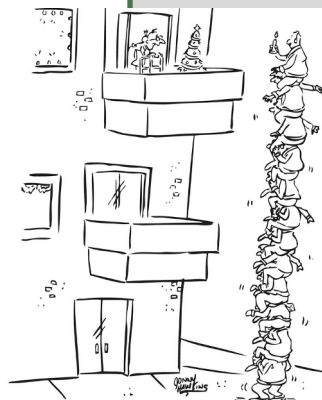
**ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES** - Please submit your committee reports for the annual report, to the church office by Monday, January 5, 2026.

**2025 Donations—All donations for 2025 need to be turned in by Tuesday, December 30, 2025.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** - Please pray for Gail Heller, Carolyn Reinecke, Leif Peterson, Jerry Hutchinson, Allan Kvitem, Gary Smith, and the shut-ins.

**FIRST SUNDAY PRAYER TIME** - On the first Sunday of each month, a pastor will be available for individual prayer and anointing (optional) at the altar railing, following worship. Prayers could include physical or emotional healing for yourself or loved ones.

Requests at the railing are kept confidential.



Cass Park Church's carolers were always ready to make necessary adjustments.

## ATTENDANCE

Sept 2025 Avg	181
Sept 2024 Avg	164
Oct 2025 Avg	209
Oct 2024 Avg	193
11/2	228
11/9	169
11/16	183
11/23	
11/30	
Nov 2025 Avg	193
Nov 2024 Avg	181